COINS OF JAPAN

BRAMSEN

00088141

NOT TO BE ISSUED
OUT OF THE LIBRARY.

V
737 4952
Bra/Coi
88141

B.B.R.A.S

BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.
TOWN HALL, BOMBAY.

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 18 July, 2018

THE

COINS OF JAPAN

BY

WILLIAM BRAMSEN

PART I

THE COPPER, LEAD AND IRON COINS

ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

REPRINTED, WITH MODIFICATIONS, FROM THE

« Mittheilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Natur-und Völkerkunde Ostasiens,»

August 1880.

88141

YOKOHAMA:

KELLY & Co.

LONDON:

TRÜBNER & Co.

LUDGATE HILL.

NEW-YORK:

BAKER, PRATT & Co.

19 BOND STREET.

YOKOHAMA TYP. "ÉCHO DU JAPON"

1880.

EN VENTE

CHEZ LES MÊMES LIBRAIRES-ÉDITEURS :

LES MONNAIES DU JAPON.

(ÉDITION FRANÇAISE DE CET OUVRAGE)

PREMIÈRE PARTIE.

V
737.4952
Bra/Coi
88141

00088141

THE COINS OF JAPAN.

When commencing the following description of the coins of Japan, it was my intention to have given a complete list of them all, at the same time adding further particulars of the circumstances accompanying their coinage, and the conclusions to be drawn from the state of the currency bearing on the prosperity and commercial development of the country at various times. I found, however, that by following this plan the book would become interspersed with notes and details of no interest to the general reader, while at the same time such digressions would interfere with the systematic classification of the various coins in a form that would be of use to the collector.

On thus finding, that I should have to make a division of the material at hand, I did not hesitate to give priority to the wants of collectors; for although many people, who have difficulty in understanding what interest there can be in making collections of coins, will find a catalogue, like the one given below, unusually dry, it still remains a fact, that there are numismatists in all parts of the world who find, that the collecting of coins, especially when confining themselves to a particular country or age, leads to the study of other and more generally appreciated subjects, such as the history, geography, language and civilization of the country in question. I shall therefore first give a mere list of the various coins, systematically arranged, with illustrations and a short description of each, and thereafter, in separate chapters, supply some general notes on the various methods of coining, as well as on the history of money in Japan.

In the accompanying plates, different colours have been used for illustrating the various metals, but the colours chosen must in no way be taken as representing the true appearance of the coins illustrated, especially in the case of copper coins, of which the actual colours may be whitish, yellow, red, brown or black. All that is intended, is to indicate by a certain colour, instead of by words, whether a coin is made of gold, silver, copper, lead or iron.

With a few exceptions the inscriptions on Japanese coins are in relief, and the illustrations, to be in strict accordance with the rules of design,

should therefore show the devices of the coins in light colour on dark ground. To have the woodcuts made in this way would have entailed considerable difficulty, and it would hardly have been possible to reproduce the shape of the characters so exactly and distinctly, as could be effected by following the opposite course, viz. of giving the device in black. For this reason the latter plan has been adopted, and the reader should therefore remember, that what in the accompanying illustrations is printed in black, is the portion of the coin which is really in relief; and that if occasionally any portion of the device of a coin is given in a lighter colour than that of the coin itself, it is because, contrary to the general rule, the part in question is in intaglio.

In this connection I would mention, that the illustrations are cut from the *best existing specimen* of each issue, borrowed from collectors in various parts of Japan or contained in my own collection. In all cases the illustrations are minutely exact reproductions of the coins chosen; but the collector will have no difficulty in discriminating between the general characteristics of the issue, to which the illustration refers, and marks, cuts and other features peculiar to the *individual* specimen here reproduced. Thus it will, for instance, be understood, that the peculiar shape of the reverse of Fig. 37 is not common to all the coins of that class, while on some of these, other irregularities may perhaps be found.

Thinking it might be of interest to the collector to know the degree of rarity of the different coins, I have added to each a number, from 1 to 20, preceded by the letter R. Those coins of which but one specimen is known to exist, I have indicated by R. 1; coins of which two or three specimens are known, by R. 2, and those of which from four to six exist, by R. 3. The indication R. 4 means, that up to ten specimens are now known, while R. 5 and R. 6 signify that up to 15 and 25 remain. After that, it becomes impossible to ascertain the exact numbers of existing specimens, and the indications from R. 7 to R. 20 are therefore based on the amount of difficulty experienced in obtaining the coins referred to. From R. 7 to R. 10 must still be called rare coins, while R. 11 to R. 20 are such as may always be obtained after more or less search.

I. — COPPER, LEAD AND IRON COINS, ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

As it is often impossible to discriminate between the many different alloys of metal, I shall in the following pages take copper as also comprising both brass and bronze, while under lead coins I include those made of pewter.

There exist several Japanese hand-books on copper-coins, but they are of but little use to the collector, being all defective, as even the best of them does not contain one third of the coins issued. Moreover, in all of them, Japanese coins are found mixed with medals, amulets and patterns of proposed coins, as well as Chinese, Corean and other money, generally without discrimination.

Coins bearing no characters, and therefore now styled *Mu-mon-dō-sen,* are said to have existed in the 7th century, but no authentic specimens are to be found now, nor is any reliable information to be obtained from existing historical records. The little that is known on this point will be mentioned later on in this book, and certain existing coins, which are by some supposed to be the *Mu-mon-dō-sen* referred to, I prefer to class under *Kitte-sen,* i. e. coins issued provisionally in times of disturbance and warfare, and therefore very coarsely made, being generally cut out of a plate of copper, instead of being cast.

It is not till A. D. 708 that we find the first issue of a copper coin recorded. To commemorate the appearance of this, if not the first copper coin current in the country, in any case the first coin made from

copper *produced* in the country, the *Nen-gō** was altered into *Wa-dō*, meaning Japanese Copper; and for the inscription of the coin were chosen the words: *Wa-dō-kai-chin*, which may be rendered "Japanese copper, a new, precious article", or, if the first two characters are taken as the year-name, "the new, precious article of the period *Wa-dō*".

Here it may be as well to mention, that on the more ancient copper coins issued by the Government (Fig. 1-43), the four characters forming the inscription are read in this order: $4\frac{1}{3}2$, while on the later issues (from Fig. 44) they read thus $4\frac{1}{2}3$.

Before proceeding to enumerate the various issues of coins, it may be mentioned, that Japanese collectors delight in distinguishing between many varieties of the same coin, to each of which is generally given a separate name, indicating its peculiar characteristic. The distinction between these varieties often amounts to no more than a slight, sometimes almost imperceptible difference in the shape of a character, or of a single stroke in a character; in fact, such small discrepancies as would necessarily occur where coins were cast in the primitive way then followed in Japan. To reproduce all these varieties here, was of course out of the question, and I have only admitted those clearly indicating a separate issue, and in which the difference was sufficiently distinct to be seized and retained by the ordinary collector. Even with this limitation I fear the distinctions made may in some cases be considered trivial.

1. — Wa-dō-kai-chin. — Issued in the 1st year of *Wa-dō* (A. D. 708). Of this coin I shall mention the following issues:

Fig. 1. — Ko Wa-dō, „the old *Wa-dō*", is the first issue of the *Wa-dō-kai-chin*. It may be distinguished from the subsequent issues by the character *Kai*, the two key-like parts of which are closed above, thus 門, while in the other issues they are partly open, thus 門. R. 8.

Fig. 2. — Nogi Wa-dō, takes its name from the shape of the character *Wa*. This letter is composed of 禾 ("Nogi hen") and 口, the former of which generally has the oblique stroke on the right side considerably shorter than the one on the left side. On this issue, however, the two oblique strokes are of almost equal length. R. 5.

Fig. 3. — Hane Wa-dō, so called because several of the straight down strokes of the characters end in a small hook, (in Japanese caligraphy called *hane*). R. 4.

Fig. 4. — Fu-tsū Wa-dō, the ordinary *Wa-dō*, the coinage of which was continued for several years after the expiry of the period of that name. This isssue has the character *Kai* shaped as on *Nogi Wa-dō* and *Hane Wa-dō*, but may easily be distinguished from the former by the oblique side stroke to the right, in the first part of the character *Wa*, being much shorter than the stroke to the left; and from the latter, by the absence of the *hane*. R. 13.

While the three first named issues of *Wa-dō-kai-chin* are badly made, the artisans employed being evidently unexperienced, the *Fu-tsū Wa-dō* is more regular and altogether of superior workmanship. In form, shape of characters and general appearance it resembles the contemporaneous Chinese coin 開元通寶, *Kai-gen-tsū-hō*, so much, that when seen on the reverse only, one may be taken for the other. It is therefore reasonable to suppose, that Chinese experts were engaged for the casting of these coins, in the same way as paper and ink-makers, tailors, and other artisans were imported from China.

(It might seem, that in the case of different issues of coins, which are all without any inscription on the reverse, any one coin might easily be mistaken for another, when looked at on that side only. This, however, is not so. Japanese connaisseurs will

* *Nen-gō* are the names given to the periods by which the Japanese count their years. Further particulars on this subject are given in my "Japanese Chronological Tables".

recognize almost any coin by the reverse alone, judging from the size of the piece, the dimensions of the square hole, the width of the round border, or of that surrounding the hole, the colour of the metal and the general finish of the coin).

2. — Man-nen-tsū-hō. — In the 4th year of *Tem-pei Hō-ji* (A. D. 760), there was such a number of forged *Wa-dō-kai-chin* in circulation, that the government decided to issue a new coin. It was inscribed with the four characters *Man-nen-tsū-hō*, "the currency of ten thousand years." The different issues of this coin may be distinguished by the direction of the dot found between two of the parallel strokes composing the character 年, *nen*.

Fig. 5. — Ō-gata Man-nen, a large sized coin. The dot in *Nen* is placed obliquely, its lower end just coming into contact with the horizontal stroke below it. R. 10.

Fig. 6. — Ko-gata Man-nen, a smaller coin, but otherwise resembling the preceding one. R. 8.

Fig. 7. — Yoko-ten Man-nen. — In this issue the dot (*ten*) is horizontal (*yoko*). There is also considerable difference between this and the preceding issues in the shape of the upper part of the character *Tsu*. R. 9.

3. — Jin-go-kai-hō, "The new treasure of the period *Jin-go*", was issued in the 1st year of *Tem-pei Jin-go* (A. D. 765).

Of the characters forming the inscription on this coin, the *Go* is composed of two parts, 工 *Ku*, and 刀 *Riki*. On some issues the *Ku* stands perpendicular, on others it is placed obliquely; and the *Riki* on some coins has the left (upright) stroke *meeting with*, but not crossing the horizontal part of the character, while on other coins the former stroke crosses and extends above the latter. The third character *Kai* may also vary, its two key-like parts being either open or closed, in the same way as mentioned under *Wa-dō-kai-chin*. Bearing these differences in mind, we are able to make a distinction between the following varieties:

Fig. 8. — Ō-gata Jin-go. Kai open. *Ku* perpendicular. R. 8.

Fig. 9. — A smaller coin, which resembles the foregoing in the points mentioned, though differing in other minor details. R. 10.

Fig. 10. — Fu-tsū Jin-go. — Kai open, *Ku* slightly oblique. R. 12.

Fig. 11. — Kai closed. Left stroke in *Riki* merely touching the horizontal line. R. 10.

Fig. 12. — Riki Jin-go. — Kai closed. Left stroke in *Riki* crossing the horizontal. R. 9.

Fig. 13. — Tsume Jin-go. — The characters do not differ much from those of the preceding coin. On the reverse, below the square hole, is found a mark like that of a thumb-nail (*tsume* nail). R. 4.

Fig. 14. — Kioku-in Jin-go. — As the name implies, this coin is struck, not cast. R. 8. There is a smaller issue of this coin. R. 9 (Perhaps these coins were not issued by the Government).

4. — Riū-hei-ei-hō, "The everlasting treasure of glorious peace", was coined in *En-riaku*, 15th year, (A. D. 796). The different ways in which the third character 永 is written, enable us to distinguish between the various issues. This character consists of two angle-shaped side parts, a dot above and a middle part, the latter being composed of a horizontal top and a perpendicular stroke. The horizontal top is of variable length, extending, as a rule, only to the left of the perpendicular; but there are also coins on which it extends on both sides.

Fig. 15. — Ō-gata Chō-tō-ei, a large sized coin, on which the top of the middle stroke of the character *Ei* extends to the left only, being long and extending beyond the horizontal part of the side stroke of the same character. R. 4.

Fig. 16. — Ō-gata Shō-ei, resembles the preceding coin in size, and shape of characters, with the exception, that in *Ei* the top of the middle stroke does not

extend as far as the horizontal part of the side stroke does. R. 8.

Fig. 17. — *Shō-ei.* Somewhat smaller than the two preceding coins. The character *Ei* looks narrow, on account of the left angle-like part being very close to the perpendicular middle line. R. 8.

Fig. 18. — *Hiku-ei.* The *Ei* is short in proportion to its width. (*Hiku*, low). R. 11.

Fig. 19. — *Ko-gata Hiku-ei.* A smaller issue of the preceding one. R. 12.

Fig. 20.—*Chō-hei.* May be distinguished by the shape of the second character, *Hei*, the portion of the perpendicular confined between the two parallel strokes being *longer* than the part below the same, while in all other issues the opposite is the case. This again gives so much more room for the two oblique side strokes, which in consequence are unusually large. R. 10.

Fig. 21. — *Ni-sui.* The horizontal top of the middle stroke of *Ei* extends to the right as well as to the left of the perpendicular, and thus forms with the dot above something like the character 二, *ni*, which again appears as placed on the top of the character 水, *sui*; hence the name given to the coin. R. 2.

There is a smaller issue of *Ni-sui Riū-hei.* R. 6.

5.—Fu-ju-jim-pō, "Sacred treasure of wealth and long life." This coin was cast in *Kō-nin*, 9th year. (A. D. 818).

A reference to the illustrations 22 to 25 will show, that on some of these coins the character *Fu* has got a small dot over the horizontal roof-like stroke, and that where such a dot is found, there is also a short, horizontal line between the roof and the square under it, while on other coins the said dot and the horizontal line are wanting.

Fig. 22. — *Tai-ji.* Characters larg-sized. *Fu* has no dot, nor any small, horizontal line. R. 6.

Fig. 23.—*Tate-nuki.* Like the forgoing, except the second character *Ju*, the peculiar shape of which gives the coin its name: while in all other issues of *Fu-ju-jim-pō* the upper vertical stroke in this character crosses two horizontal lines, and stops at the third, on this coin the vertical stroke crosses the third horizontal, as well as the square underneath, and ends at the horizontal line below that again. R. 5.

Fig. 24. — *Shimesu Fu-ju.* On this coin *Fu* has a small dot over the roof, and a line under the latter. In the third character *Shin* (*Jim*), the first part 示, *Shimesu*, differs in shape from that on the other issues, by the dot and the horizontal line under it forming something like the character 二, owing to the horizontal line also extending to the right of the perpendicular, in somewhat the same way as on the *Nisui.Riūhei.* R. 7.

Fig. 25.—*Fu-tsū Fu-ju*, the ordinary *Fu-ju. Fu* has a small dot over the roof, and a line underneath the latter, in the same way as the preceding coin, but the third character *Shin* (*Jim*) is written in the same manner as in coins 22 and 23. It also differs considerably from *Shimesu Fu-ju* by the way the second character *Ju* is written. R. 10.

Shō-wa-shō-hō, "The prosperous treasure of the period *Shō-wa*", issued in the 2nd year of *Shō-wa* (A. 835).

Fig. 26. — *Ō-gata Shō-wa.* Large sized issue. R. 6.

Fig. 27. — *Fu-tsū Shō-wa*, the ordinary *Shō-wa.* The characters differ in several minor points from the foregoing, especially in the direction given to the stroke that crosses the perpendicular line in the first part of the character 和. R. 9.

7.—Chō-nen-tai-hō, "The great treasure of many years," issued in *Ka-jō*, 1st year. (A. D. 848).

Fig. 28. — *Ō-gata Chō-nen.* — A comparatively large coin. At the top of the character 大, *Tai*, there is a little hook to the left. R. 5.

Fig. 29. — Ō-gata Tai-ji Chō-nen.— Same size as the foregoing. Characters larger, especially the *Tai*, which has no hook at the top. R. 9.

Fig. 30.—Fu-tsū Chō-nen.— Smaller coin. *Tai* has a hook, as in Fig. 28, but the other characters are different, especially *Chō*. R. 9.

8.—Niō-eki-jim-pō, "Heavenly treasure of abundant profit", issued in *Jō-gwan*, 1st year (A. D. 859). The third character *Shin (Jim)* is the same as in *Fu-ju-jim-pō* described above; and as was the case with that coin, we also here find the first part of *Shin*, the so-called *Shimesu*, written in two ways.

Fig. 31. — Ō-gata Tai-ji, the larger issue, with large sized characters. The horizontal line in the *Shimesu* only *meets* the perpendicular. R. 3.

There are also smaller specimens on which the *Shimesu* is similarly shaped. R. 8.

Fig. 32.—Fu-tsū. The ordinary issue, on which the horizontal line in *Shimesu* extends to the right of the perpendicular, and forms, with the dot above, the character 二. R. 8.

9.—Jō-gwan-ei-hō, "The everlasting treasure of the period *Jō-gwan*", coined in the 12th year of the period of that name. (A. D. 870.)

Fig. 33. — Fu-tsū. — The ordinary issue. R. 9.

It will have been noticed that the coins mentioned up to this point have gradually decreased in size and also to a certain extent deteriorated in workmanship. Those that follow are still more inferior: the metal is poor, being often alloyed with lead, and in some cases the coins are made entirely of the latter metal. The execution, too, is extremely bad, and the irregular shapes of the reverses show the careless way in which the coins were cast. Owing to the coins being originally so poor, it is now very difficult to obtain specimens, on which the characters are legible.

10.—Kwam-pei-tai-hō.—„ The great treasure of Kwam-pei", coined in the 2nd year of the period of that name. (A. D. 890).

Fig. 34.—Fatsu-dai, so called because the character *Tai (Dai)* is broad, the horizontal stroke being somewhat longer than on the other issues. R. 9.

Fig. 35.—Kwan-em-pi, "long-tailed *Kwan*", so called because the right bottom-stroke of *Kwan* is long, extending out as far as the corner of the square hole. R. 8.

Fig. 36.—En-kwan, "round *Kwan*," derives its name from the roof-like stroke in *Kwan* being curved. The coin may equally well be distinguished by the peculiar form given to the dots in *Hei (Pei)*. R. 3.

Fig. 37. — Fu-tsū, "the ordinary issue", may here, as elsewhere, best be described as not possessing any of the peculiarities, by which the other issues are distinguished. R. 9.

Fig. 38.—Chō-hei, "long *Hei*", so called because the second character *Hei (Pei)* is longer than on the other issues, besides which the dots in the same character are very small. R. 8.

11. — En-gi-tsū-hō, "The currency of *En-gi*," coined in the 7th year of the period of this name. (A. D. 907).

Fig. 39.—Ō-gata, the larger issue. R. 5. There are also specimens cast of lead. R. 7.

Fig. 40.—Fu-tsū, "the ordinary issue," is smaller and besides differs somewhat from the foregoing in the form of the characters. R.. 10. Also of this coin there are specimens in lead. R. 9.

(Owing to the oxidation of the metal it is not always easy from the appearance alone to distinguish between the copper and lead coins. The latter may, however, always be recognized by the absence of a ringing sound, besides which a scratch with a knife will always show the nature of the metal.)

12. — Ken-gen-tai-hō, "The great treasure of heaven" coined in the 2nd year of the period *Ten-toku* (A. D. 958).

Fig. 41.—Fu-tsū Ken-gen, the ordinary *Ken-gen.* The characters are comparatively large, and some of them touch the round border of the coin. R. 8.

Fig. 42. — Sek-kaku Ken-gen. The characters are smaller and well separated from the round border. R. 4.

Fig. 43. — Very much like *Fig. 41,* but cast of lead. R. 9.

The *Ken-gen-tai-hō* marks a distinct period in the history of the Japanese currency, being the last of what may be called the antique coins of the country, or as the Japanese call them: *Jū-ni-hin,* "the twelve kinds" (counting from *Wa-dō).* Owing to circumstances that will be reverted to later on, the government, after the coinage of *Ken-gen-tai-hō,* issued no copper-coins whatever for over six hundred years. In the records of this period we find it mentioned once, that in the 1st year of *Kem-mu* (A. D. 1334), a decree appeared, ordering the issue of a copper-coin inscribed with the characters 乾坤通寶 *Ken-kon-tsū-hō;* but as no other reference is made to this coin and no specimen has ever been seen, it must be supposed that the coinage, after all, did not take place.

With the period *Ten-shō* (1573-1591), commences a new era for Japan generally, as well as for its coins.

13.—Ten-shō-tsū-hō, "The currency of *Ten-shō,*" coined in the 15th year of that period (A. D. 1587). As might be expected after the art of coining had been so completely neglected for centuries, this coin is not well made. There seems to have been but a very limited number of copper coins cast, while silver-coins of the same design were issued in larger quantity, the consequence being that the former are at present much rarer than the latter. The characters on this and subsequent coins are, as aforesaid, read in the order $4\frac{1}{2}3$.

Fig. 44. — Shō-tsū, so called because the character *Tsū* is smaller than on the subsequent issue. The characters on this coin are said to have been written by the emperor Go-Yōzei, R. 4.

Fig. 45. — Dai-tsū, on which the *Tsū* is considerably larger. The inscription is said to have been written by Hideyoshi (Taikō). R. 3.

14. — Bun-roku-tsū-hō, issued in the 1st year of *Bun-roku* (1592). The remarks made under *Ten-shō-tsū-hō* with regard to inferior workmanship, and scarcity of copper-coins in proportion to those made of silver, also apply to the *Bun-roku-tsū-hō.*

Fig. 46.—The ordinary issue. R. 3.

15. — Kei-chō-tsū-hō, coined in the 11th year of *Kei-chō* (1606). There are the following issues:

Fig. 47.—Fu-tsū, the ordinary *Kei-chō.* R. 16.

Fig. 48.—Hō-tō-sei, so-called because the dot on the top of the character *Hō* is very long. Otherwise it is like the preceding coin. R. 15.

Fig. 49.—Tai-ji. So called because the characters on this issue are larger than those on the following coin, which it resembles in respect to the border, which is proportionally wide, especially on the reverse. R. 3.

Fig. 50.—Shō-ji. The characters are somewhat smaller than on Fig. 49. This coin has likewise a wide border. R. 3.

Fig. 51. — Ko-gata Shō-ji. Smaller coin, with smaller characters. This issue is easily recognized by the characters being in the true square style, while on all the other issued of *Kei-chō-tsū-hō* they are written in a more rounded and, to our ideas, sprawling manner. R. 3.

16. — Gen-na-tsū-hō, coined in the 1st year of *Gen-na.* (1615).

Fig. 52.—Fu-tsū. The ordinary issue. It has the Chinese character for 1 on the reverse, under the square hole. R. 13.

In addition to the foregoing, there are said to be specimens with numbers, varying from 2 to 30, on the reverse. They are all extremely rare, and I have never seen but the following four, nor have I been able to ascertain what these numbers signify.

Fig. 53.—Has the character for 10 on the reverse, above the hole. R. 2.

Fig. 54.—Has the character for 16 on the reverse (10 above and 6 below the hole). R. 2.

Fig. 55. — With the character for 19 (10 above and 9 below the hole). R. 1.

Fig. 56. — Bears the character for 20 above the hole. R. 2.

17. — Kwan-ei-tsū-hō. — First issued in the 13th year of *Kwan-ei* (1636). Of this coin there is an almost endless variety of issues, of different sizes, cast of copper or iron, some with, others without any inscription on the reverse. This great variety is owing to the fact, that the coinage of *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō* was continued for over 225 years, during which the device of the copper and iron coins of the government remained unchanged, with the exception of the few coins of a higher denomination, of which mention is made below. (All the copper-coins issued from *Wa-dō*, up to the period of *Kwan-ei*, and all the copper and iron *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō*, excepting the large-sized issue with wave-like lines on the reverse, to be mentioned hereafter, are of the value of 1 *Mon*, the origin and meaning of which expression will be explained later on.)

Japanese collectors distinguish more than one thousand different varieties of *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō*, and even after reducing these to a minimum, there still remains such a large number of distinct issues, that it becomes advisable to treat and illustrate the *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō*, in a chapter by itself, merely giving in this place two specimens of the issues without and with inscription on the reverse.

Fig. 57. — *Ōkura-sen.* Issued in the 13th year of *Kwan-ei* (1636). R. 18.

Fig. 58. — *Bun-sen*, so called because it has the character *Bun* on the reverse. Coined in *Kwambun*, 8th year (1668). R. 19.

18. — Hō-ei-tsū-hō, issued in the 5th year of *Hō-ei* (1708). It is a large coin, being in value equal to ten *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō*, and therefore also called *Jū-mon-sen* (10 *Mon* piece). In the border of the reverse it bears the four characters *Hei-kiū-sei-yō*, which are read in the same order as the inscription on the obverse, meaning "Long-lasting Currency." After the casting of the coin, an additional small character, *Chin* (precious), is *stamped* in some place or other of the same border. This coin was withdrawn from circulation the following year (1709).

Fig. 59.—The only issue. R. 18.

19. — Kwan-ei Shi-mon-sen, so called because its value was 4 *Mon*. It was first coined in the 4th year of *Mei-wa* (1768), the metal then used being brass, while several later issues were cast of iron. On the obverse it bears the same inscription as the ordinary, smaller *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō*, from which, however, it may easily be distinguished by the reverse being covered with wave-like lines, the first issues having 21 such curved lines, and therefore commonly called *Ni-jū-ichi-nami*, (*Nami*, "wave"), while the issues subsequent to the said year have only 11 lines, and are called *Jū-ichi-nami*.

Of the *Shi-mon-sen* I shall mention the following:

Fig. 60. — *Fu-tsū Ni-jū-ichi-nami*, the ordinary *Shi-mon-sen*, with 21 wave-like lines on the reverse. The hook with which the character *Kwan* ends below to the right, is short. Coined in *Mei-wa* 5th year (1768.) R. 18.

Fig. 61.—The same coin, cast of iron. R. 16.

Fig. 62.—*Ō-gata Ni-jū-ichi-nami.* Large sized coin. Issued in the same year as the foregoing. Of this there is no issue in iron. R. 10.

Fig. 63. — *Fuka-ji Ni-jū-ichi-nami*, so called because the characters (*ji*) are in considerable relief (*fuka*, literally "deep"). The hook in *Kwan* is

somewhat longer than in Fig. 60. Time of issue the same as the foregoing. Of this coin there are no specimens in iron. R. 13.

Fig. 64.—Tai-ei Shō-tsū. Has only eleven wave-like lines on the reverse. It derives its name from the character *Ei* being large, and *Tsū* small in comparison with subsequent issues. A distinction between this coin and the one illustrated by Fig. 67, is given under the latter. Issued in *Mei-wa* 6th year (1769). R. 19.

Fig. 65.—The same in iron. R. 18.

Fig. 66.—Ō-gata Jū-ichi-nami; a large sized coin. Issued in *Mei-wa* 6th year (1769). No specimens cast of iron. R. 11.

Fig. 67.—Shō-ei Dai-tsū; so called because, contrary to what was the case in Fig. 64, the *Ei* is small and the *Tsū* large. To the eyes of others than Japanese this distinction in very vague; but the two coins may be distinguished in the following way: in Fig. 67 the top of the middle stroke of *Ei* is perfectly horizontal, and consequently parallel with the lower border of the square hole, while in Fig. 64 the said stroke is sloping down to the left. The same difference exists in a similar stroke in the character *Tsū*. There are no iron-coins of this issue. R. 19.

Fig. 68.—Ō-gata Man-en. Large coin, issued in the 1st year of *Man-en* (1860). The shape of the character *Ei* differs considerably from that in Fig. 66, besides which the coins cannot be mistaken for each other, the one being a bronze, the other an iron coin. R. 17.

Fig. 69.—Ko-gata, a smaller iron coin, also issued in *Man-en* (1860). R. 20.

20.—Tem-pō-tsū-hō, coined in the 6th year of *Tem-pō*, (1835). It is a large, oval bronze coin, having on the obverse the characters *Tem-pō* above, and *Tsū-hō* below the square hole, while on the reverse it bears, above the hole, the two characters *Tō-hiaku,* "the equivalent of hundred", indicating that the value of the coin was 100 *Mon* (that is, one hundred small *Kwan-ei-sen*, or twenty-five *Kwan-ei Shi-mon-sen*). The mark below the hole, on the reverse, is that of the Mint. This coin has two small marks stamped into the edge, one on each side.

Fig. 70.—The ordinary issue. R. 20.

There are some specimens, on which the hole is larger, and the square border in consequence much narrower. These are not quite so common as those with a broader border.

21.—Bun-kiū-ei-hō, "The ever-lasting currency of *Bun-kiū*," was issued in the 3rd year of *Bun-kiū*, (1863), being at the time worth 4 *Mon*, and therefore equal to one *Kwan-ei Shi-mon-sen*. Like the latter it has eleven wave-like lines on the reverse. The different issues may be distinguished by the shape of the characters *Bun* and *Hō*.

Fig. 71.—Shin-bun Bun-kiū, so called because the *Bun* is written in the "true style" (*Shin*), namely with a little dot above, joined to the middle of a horizontal line below it. R. 20.

I have seen no specimens in iron of this coin.

Fig. 72.—Shi-ji Shin-hō Bun-kiū. The first part of the name indicates, that the character *Bun* is erroneously shaped in the way a different character, 支, *Shi,* is written whenever found in a compound character, viz. with the dot placed to the left, against the end of the other line, which is sloping upwards to the right. The second part of the name, *Shin-hō*, refers to the character *Hō*, which is written in its "true" form, while on the coin illustrated by Fig 74 an abbreviated form is used. R. 20.

Fig. 73.—Like the foregoing, but cast of iron. R. 10.

Fig. 74.—Shi-ji Riaku-hō Bun-kiū. The *Bun* is formed as in the preceding issue, but the *Hō* is given in its abbreviated form (*Riaku*, abbreviation). There are no specimens in iron. R. 20.

This ends the list of copper, lead and iron coins issued by the Imperial Government, prior to the

present currency, which dates from *Mei-ji*, 3d year (1870). The denominations of the latter are

1 *Yen* = 100 *Sen*.
1 *Sen* = 10 *Rin*.
1 *Rin* = 10 *Mō*.

The modern copper-pieces are 2 *Sen*, 1 *Sen*, 1/2 *Sen* and 1 *Rin*, but the old copper coins still remain current with the following modified values:

Tem-pō-tsū-hō equal to..... 8 Rin.
Kwan-ei Shi-mon-sen (Brass) equal to. 2 Rin.
Bun-kiū-ei-hō (Copper) equal to..... 1 Rin 5 Mō.
Small *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō* (Copper) equal to 1 Rin.

Although the term *Mon* is now officially abolished, the three last named coins are still commonly called *Ni-jū-mon* (20 mon), *Jū-go-mon* (15 mon) and *Jū-mon* (10 mon), which were the values given to them at another and earlier re-adjustment of the currency.

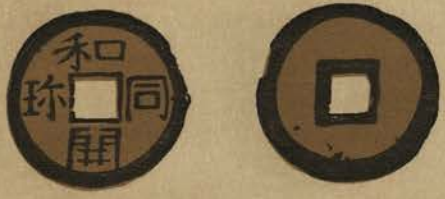
The value of the old iron-coins has also been fixed by the government after the issue of the modern currency, as follows:

1 *Sen* = 60 iron *Shi-mon-sen* or 120 small iron *Kwan-ei-tsū-hō*. They are, however, never used as currency, partly because there is no necessity for having such small fractions of a *Sen*, but also because this value is below what they fetch if sold as old iron.

1

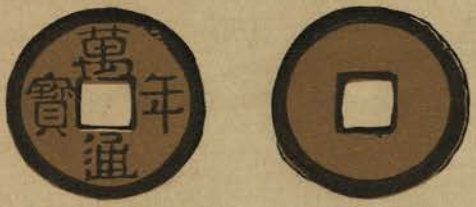
2

3

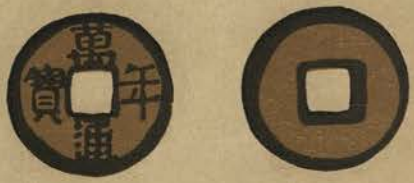


4

5



6



7

8

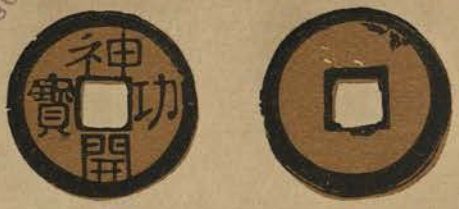
9

10

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

11

12



13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

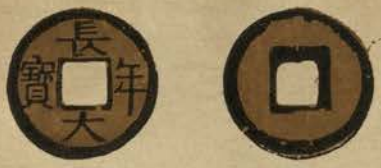
25

26

27

28

29



30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

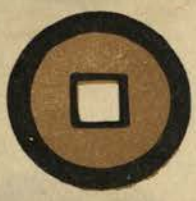
53

54

55

56

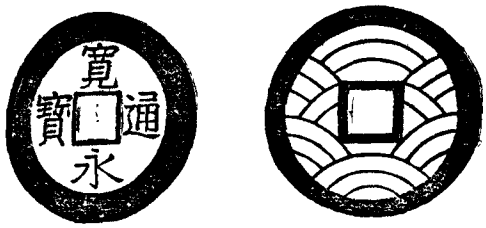
57



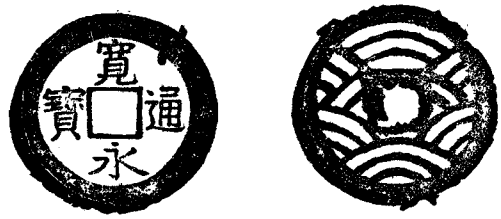
58

59

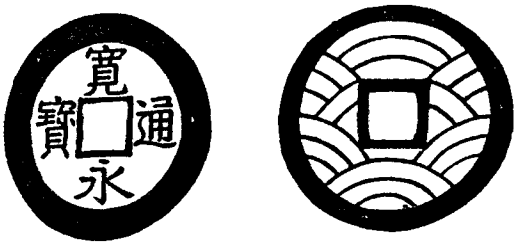
60



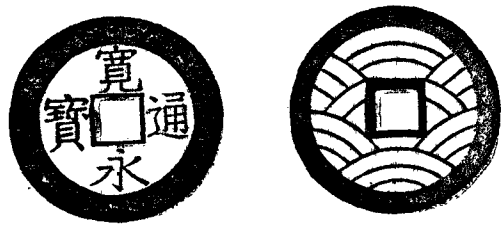
61



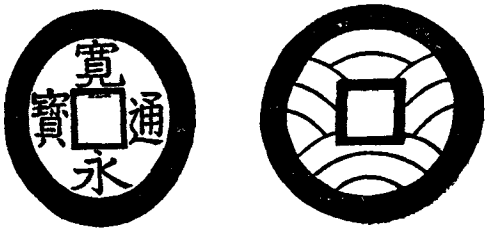
62



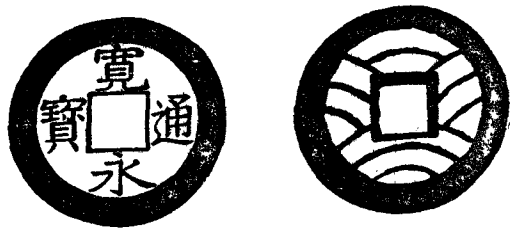
63



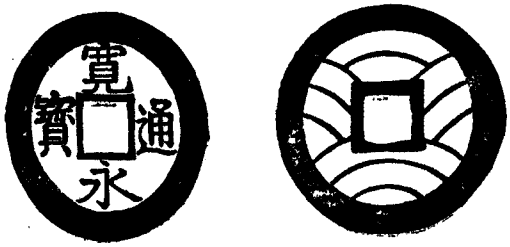
64



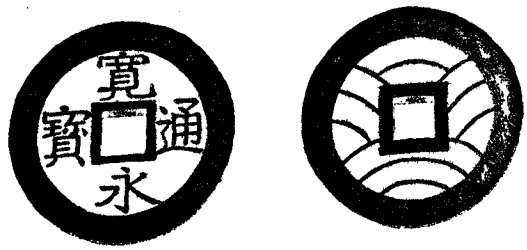
65



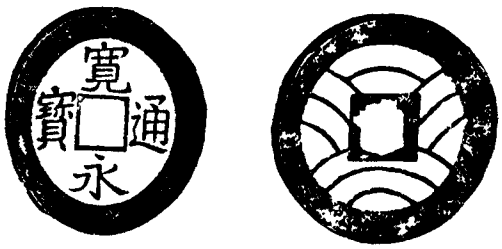
66



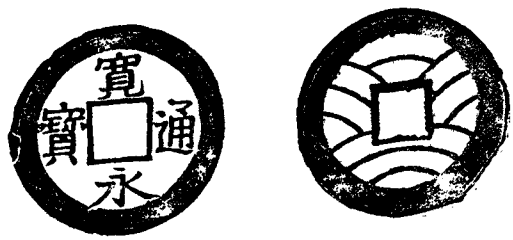
67



68



69



88141

70

71

72

73

74

00088141

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 18 July, 2018